

us to keeping looking toward the future as we help our great States thrive today.

DAVID VITTER

Mr. President, in a Congress where bipartisanship is all too rare, I have been honored to work with many Republican colleagues on commonsense, bipartisan solutions. Senator DAVID VITTER has served as chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, of which I am a member, and has been a consummate partner on issues affecting Michigan's small businesses. On the Small Business Committee, we have been able to pass significant legislation to ensure that small businesses have the resources they need to compete, expand, and give back to their communities. We extended the SBA 7(a) Federal loan program to provide thousands of small businesses with financing at no cost to American taxpayers. Together, we introduced legislation that will provide patent education to small businesses. We also introduced legislation that will help small businesses plan for and protect against cyber security attacks. I am glad to have colleagues like Senator VITTER who believe that no issue is too small when it comes to supporting support job creation and economic growth.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, I would also like to extend my warm wishes to Senator DAN COATS. He has served ably as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, and I have been proud to sit on the committee during his tenure. He has convened important hearings to discuss essential issues including the Federal debt, the effects of automation on our economy, tax reform, and economic growth. I appreciate his consistent efforts to create a bipartisan forum where we can discuss innovative ideas for addressing our Nation's economic challenges. As a fellow Midwesterner, Senator COATS knows that we must have big ideas and bigger hearts as we move forward, committed to helping all Americans achieve the future they deserve.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, I also had the pleasure of serving with Senator KELLY AYOTTE on the Senate committees on Small Business, Commerce, and Homeland Security and Government Affairs. She has been a pragmatic partner on legislation as varied as the Northern Border Security Review Act, which will strengthen American security at the northern border with Canada, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act, which would expand a public-private partnership to help businesses get their products to market. We also introduced the Pet and Women Safety Act to protect victims of domestic violence from emotional trauma caused by acts or threats of violence against their pets. I respect Senator AYOTTE's dedication to these issues. As a father, I also admire Senator AYOTTE's great work raising two

young children while in the Senate. I wish her family all the best in their next adventure.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, another colleague from the Midwest, Senator MARK KIRK, has served with distinction in the Senate. Like me, Senator KIRK also served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. We have collaborated on efforts to help veterans suffering from PTSD, protect wildlife habitats and improve water quality in the Great Lakes, extend Medicare coverage for Americans at risk for diabetes, and even establish the Senate Albanian Caucus. I admire the strength and resolve Senator KIRK has exhibited throughout his Senate term and wish him continued success.

It has been a privilege to work with such talented and committed colleagues. I wish them all the best in this next chapter of their lives and thank them for their work. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service of a former colleague and our current Vice President, JOE BIDEN.

JOE was born in Pennsylvania but moved with his family to Delaware when he was 13. He left Delaware for brief stints at St. Helena School and Syracuse University Law School, but he has always returned to Delaware, including the daily trips he made home during his Senate career and the regular trips he makes home to this day.

Because of his devotion to Delaware, JOE quickly got his start in politics, first on the New Castle County Council and then in the U.S. Senate, where he became the fifth youngest U.S. Senator in history in 1972. He also has the distinction of being Delaware's longest serving Senator.

I worked with JOE on many different issues during his time in the Senate and served on the Foreign Relations Committee when he was our chairman. JOE is known as a foreign affairs expert, and he has many reasons to be proud of the work he has done in that area. One of those things that we worked on together was the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I remember being at the 2003 State of the Union speech when President Bush said, "We're going to put \$15 billion into an AIDS effort." That shocked all of us who were there. It was a lot of money. But we worked together to develop a bill that passed the House and Senate unanimously.

JOE managed the floor when we reauthorized that program in 2008, and we worked with Senators Coburn, BURR, and Lugar to develop that reauthorization. At the time, JOE suggested historians will regard PEPFAR as President Bush's "single finest hour," and I tend to agree. A few years ago I visited the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia. We were told that, before PEPFAR, they had to bury 18 kids a month that died of

AIDS, but because of PEPFAR, they got that down to one a month. I know JOE shares my pride in the difference that program is making.

We were all a little sad to see JOE move to the White House in 2009, when he became our 47th Vice President. Lucky for us, he has been able to keep his ties to the Senate in his role as President of this body, and I think he has been one of our best partners in the administration.

All of us were glad to be able to recognize JOE and his son, Beau Biden, by naming the cancer section of 21st Century Cures Act after Beau. I expect JOE will continue to be a voice for ending cancer, and I hope to work with him towards that cause.

JOE, Diana and I send our best to you, Jill, and your family. You have served the people of Delaware and the people of the United States with distinction.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN R. ALLMAN

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about PFC John R. Allman. John was born November 22, 1963, in Carlsbad, NM. He played fierce football for the Carlsbad High School Cavemen and graduated in 1982.

John always wanted to be a Marine—like his father and grandfather before him. He fulfilled his dream and became a marine weeks after graduating from high school.

Tragically, John was killed in a terrorist bomb attack on his barracks while on a multinational peacekeeping mission in Beirut, Lebanon. John and his fellow marines were stationed in Lebanon to help stabilize the country from civil war.

On April 18, 1983, the U.S. Embassy in Beirut was hit by a suicide truck bomb—one of the first suicide attacks in the region—killing 63 people, including 17 Americans.

On October 23, 1983, two truck bombs struck separate buildings housing American and French military forces in Beirut—members of the multinational force. The attack on American barracks housed the 1st Battalion 8th Marines, John's battalion. The bomb striking the marines' quarters was the largest nonnuclear explosion that had ever been detonated, equaling in force between 15,000 and 21,000 pounds of TNT. The death toll was 220 marines, 18 sailors, and 3 soldiers, John among them. It was the deadliest single-day death toll for the Marine Corps since World War II's Battle of Iwo Jima and the deadliest single terrorist attack on American citizens prior to the September 11 attacks. The blasts led to withdrawal of the international peacekeeping force.

John's hometown of Carlsbad and Eddy County proclaimed Veterans Day 2016 as "John Allman Day" in his honor. That day, the community celebrated with a parade, speeches, and tributes to John. A bench was made